

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 are under examination in this application.

Claims 1-14 have been cancelled.

Claim 15 has been amended and rewritten in independent form.

No new subject matter has been added to the claims. Support for amended claim 15 can be found in general throughout the specification and in particular, for example, at paragraph [0043]. Paragraph number notations refer to Applicant's published patent application US 2004/0151712 A1.

Therefore, claims 15-27 are currently pending.

The amendment of and cancellation of the claims is to help more distinctly claim the invention and is not an acquiescence to any pending rejection. Applicant reserves the right to present the original claims in this or a continuation application. No prejudice shall be inferred by the amendments.

Amendment to the Specification

The amendment to paragraph [0001] was made to correct an inadvertent clerical error when referring to the related U.S. application data. Application No. 10/253,316, filed on Sep. 24, 2002, now Pat. No. 6,699,905 was incorrectly referred to as a *divisional* of application No. 09/972,419, filed on Oct. 5, 2001, now Pat. No. 6,458,839 when it is a *continuation*.

Enclosed herewith is an updated application data sheet. Applicant(s) respectfully request an updated filing receipt with the above-noted correction.

Rejection of Claims 1-26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1 through 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-14 have been cancelled. Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations set forth in claims 1 and 14 without the term “preventing” as was written in claim 1, therefore obviating this rejection.

Applicant notes that the Examiner does not specifically mention claim 27. However, the amendment to claim 15 from which claim 27 depends should obviate any rejection of claim 27.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by WO 90/13292.

Claims 1-14 have been cancelled obviating this rejection. No inference shall be drawn by the cancellation of claims 1-14. Cancellation of these claims is being done solely to expedite prosecution and allowance of the remaining claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application and a favorable response are respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, please contact the undersigned at 612-340-8819.

No additional claim fees should be generated by this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 04-1420.

Respectfully submitted,

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